



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 21 November 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- USA TODAY reports the Associated Mail and Parcel Centers estimates that each year thousands of packages with potentially hazardous materials are loaded onto cargo planes all over the U.S. (See item [21](#))
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Chikungunya, a severe and sometimes deadly infectious disease that has devastated the islands of the Indian Ocean, has arrived in the United States: several states have reported cases of travelers returning from visits to Asia and East Africa sick with the mosquito-borne virus. (See item [29](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 19, Houston Chronicle* — **Rust top cause of pipeline spills.** The Houston Chronicle reviewed all pipeline incidents reported to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration from 2000 to 2005. Corrosion has become the leading cause of hazardous-liquid pipeline accidents, causing a quarter of all reported spills in the past six years, according to the Chronicle's study. From 2000 to 2005, 217 of the 832 incidents reported to the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration were attributed to corrosion. Rusting pipes also spilled the most petroleum products — more than five million gallons — in

those six years. Decaying pipelines have leaked oil, fuel and other volatile liquids at least once in 32 states, led by Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Louisiana. Corrosion has risen to the top of the list because pipeline accidents triggered by a dozen other causes have declined, particularly "third-party damage" — which includes everything from a farm backhoe hitting a pipeline to a hole made by a hunter's bullet. On average, corrosion is responsible for 36 spills across the country annually, down from an average of 49 between 1993 and 1998. And though the size of the spills tends to be smaller, experts say that incidents caused by corrosion are harder to detect. Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/4345925.html>

2. *November 18, Associated Press* — **Report says Ameren had well-executed plan after storms.** State utility regulators complimented Ameren Corp. on a "well executed" plan of restoring electricity following a pair of severe summer storms in the St. Louis area but said it needs to do even more to trim back trees near power lines. The report, released Friday, November 17, by the Missouri Public Service Commission included more than 20 recommended improvements for St. Louis-based Ameren, other utilities, and the commission itself, including an enhanced emphasis on tree-trimming. A severe storm July 19 left more than 645,000 of Ameren's Missouri customers without power. Another storm on July 21 added to the power outages, which weren't fully restored until July 28. Utility crews from 12 states helped in the restoration, as did 25 electrical construction contractors. About 3,800 people helped in the effort, including line repair workers, tree-clearing crews, damages assessors, and others. The PSC staff compared Ameren's restoration efforts to utility responses in 44 other major storms between 1989 and 2003. The report concluded that Ameren restored more than the average number of customers per day, restored more than the average number of customers per restoration worker, and had a lower than average frequency of broken poles, damaged transformers, and replaced conductors. Source: http://www.newstribune.com/articles/2006/11/20/news_state/043state07ameren.txt

3. *November 14, Canadian Press* — **Third World discount looks to be over.** The \$1.25-billion purchase of Centurion Energy International Inc., a Canadian company operating in North Africa, suggests the so-called Third World discount for companies in volatile regions may have evaporated. Today, with energy reserves in short supply, some of the biggest discoveries are coming in some of the world's poorest countries. And prices for those assets are rapidly approaching amounts paid in richer, more stable regions — a move that's long overdue, says an analyst. "I think the market has gone overboard in discounting non-North Sea and non-North American reserves," said Martin Molyneaux of FirstEnergy Capital. While some break for political risk is justified, "there's too much of a discount out there," Molyneaux said. Source: <http://www.canada.com/calgaryherald/news/calgarybusiness/story.html?id=039bf8f8-b60c-42be-89c5-d82f2d44bb7c>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *November 19, Associated Press* — **One killed in fuel tanker crash in Dallas.** A man driving a fuel tanker was killed when the truck struck a car abandoned on the side of a Dallas freeway Sunday morning, November 19. The tanker had been carrying gasoline, causing it to ignite along with the car. Interstate 30 was temporarily closed while the wreckage was cleared. The

driver of the tanker, Charles Luckey of Garland, died in the wreck.

Source: http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/dfw/news/16054302.htm?source=rss&channel=dfw_news

5. *November 17, Fox 43 (PA)* — **Chemical reaction leads to evacuation.** Cycle Chem in Fairview Township, PA, was evacuated Friday morning, November 17, along with several other businesses after a chemical reaction caused a small fire and a vapor cloud. Employees were preparing pool chemicals for disposal when they got an unexpected reaction. "They work with so many different chemicals in there, and when they consolidate them sometimes there's a reaction and that is what happened this time. But they don't exactly know why that did happen," says Bernadette Lauer, York County Emergency Management.

Source: <http://fox43.trb.com/news/wpmt-111706-chemicalreaction.0.3726393.story?coll=wpmt-news-3>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *November 19, Aviation Now* — **Foreign military sales expected to top \$20 billion in 2006.** As the cost of major weapon systems escalates, arms-producing countries are increasingly looking to export their wares to foreign markets. Sales abroad can help keep critical production lines going, decrease the costs of weapons for the military at home, and strengthen the domestic defense industrial base. The U.S. and Russia remain the top two weapon-exporting countries, while Europe's main arms manufacturers — the UK, France and Germany — want to sustain their significant market share. In the meantime, China and Israel continue to push to increase their presence in the world arms bazaar. And while many countries like to express their exports as driven by strategy, and not just money, the numbers indicate that arms exports is a booming business. Most notably, the U.S., the world's top exporter of military wares, has seen its foreign military sales double this year. The Pentagon predicted last year that it would book about \$13 billion worth of foreign military sales (FMS) for Fiscal 2006. Yet the tally for the year reached nearly \$21 billion. The final FMS total for Fiscal 2006 — \$20.9 billion — is almost double the previous year's \$10.6 billion and is the second highest total ever.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_defense_story.jsp?id=news/aw112006p1.xml

7. *November 17, U.S. Air Force* — **Air Force, industry must partner to create synthetic fuel demand.** The Air Force must partner with the civilian aviation industry to create a stronger demand for alternative fuel sources. During a conference of defense industry representatives Tuesday, November 14, Michael Aimone, Air Force assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support, explained how the Air Force is looking for ways to get more of the fuel it uses from domestic sources. In addition to the roughly 3 billion gallons of jet fuel a year used by the Air Force, the civilian aviation industry consumes 12 to 13 billion gallons a year. Aimone said if the use of alternative fuels is to move forward, users of the fuels must partner together to create a demand for it. Besides looking for alternative fuel sources, Air Force officials are also looking into ways to reduce the service's overall use of jet fuel through waste reduction.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123032225>

8. *November 17, Federal Computer Week* — **DoD plans major overhaul of service buys.** The Department of Defense (DoD) is mulling a change in the way it acquires and manages services, going from a largely reactive process to what DoD officials describe as a strategic, enterprisewide approach. The proposed plan for managing acquisition of services should help the department meet its cost, schedule and performance objectives for such acquisitions and make sure those acquisitions are aligned with its broader strategic needs, according to DoD executives. "This involves the examination of the types and kinds of services we acquire and an integrated assessment of how to meet the needs of our warfighters while ensuring that the expenditure of taxpayer funds is wise and effective," wrote Shay Assad, director of defense procurement and acquisition policy, in response to a recent Government Accountability Office report. The DoD reassessment will look at the ways DoD acquires services, both on its own and through agencies that act on the department's behalf. Once that is done, Assad said, the DoD will develop a strategic sourcing deployment plan.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article96878-11-17-06-Web>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 20, USA TODAY* — **Coin of the commanders in chief unveiled.** The U.S. Mint on Monday, November 20, unveiled designs for its newest additions: dollar coins that will feature deceased presidents on a rotating basis, similar to the popular state quarters. The coins will enter circulation with George Washington on February 15, and will be gold in color like the Sacagawea to distinguish them from other coins. Like the Sacagawea, they will be slightly larger than the quarter.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/2006-11-19-dollar-coin-usat_x.htm

10. *November 20, IC Wales (UK)* — **UK failing on Nigerian fraud.** Financial crime stemming from Nigeria has become a "large and pressing problem" for UK authorities, new research concluded. A string of Internet scams and reports of credit card fraud, as well as incidents of money laundering are going unchecked by governments in both countries. The study by independent research body Chatham House said corruption is sneaking through the net because it is not seen in Britain as a priority problem. "Criminal activity is carried out by a small minority of Nigerians, relative to the size of the country and the number of nationals resident in Britain or visiting it," it said. "But the numbers of people involved are still significant and their successes reflect wider political and logistical shortcomings with the way the British authorities deal with financial crime." On one day in 2005 a check at Heathrow airport revealed millions in forged checks and postal orders in courier mail from the African country's capital, Lagos. It has also been estimated Nigeria-style fee frauds costs the UK economy approximately \$192 million each year.

Source: http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0600uk/tm_headline=uk--failing-on-nigerian-fraud-%26method=full%26objectid=18123494%26siteid=50082-name_page.html

11. *November 20, Bloomberg* — **Bank of America will buy U.S. Trust for \$3.3 billion.** Bank of America Corp. will buy U.S. Trust, the private-banking unit of Charles Schwab, for \$3.3

billion in cash to lure wealthy clients from Citigroup Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. The acquisition, Bank of America's third-biggest under Chief Executive Officer Kenneth Lewis, will create a private bank with \$261 billion in assets, the company said Monday, November 20. Bank of America has expanded through non-bank purchases as rising interest rates crimp lending margins and the company's share of U.S. deposits approaches the U.S. regulatory cap of 10 percent. Bank of America had about 9.2 percent of the \$6.45 trillion in U.S. deposits as of June 30, according to data released last month by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. The bank may be precluded from making larger purchases because the Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking Act of 1994 bars any bank from gaining control of more than 10 percent of deposits through acquisition.

Source: http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aN5SaBvt_h.jc&refer=home

12. *November 20, Finextra* — **Nationwide under fire over stolen laptop.** More than 11 million customers of the Nationwide building society have learned that they may have been exposed to fraud after an employee's laptop was stolen in a domestic burglary three months ago. Nationwide, which is the UK's biggest building society, has come under fire from security groups for delaying disclosure of the breach. Details of the theft, which occurred at an employee's home in August, only emerged after a tip-off to reporters. Nationwide says no PINs or passwords were on the stolen laptop but does not deny that customer names and account numbers could have been. The building society has also failed to say if the data was encrypted. Nationwide says there is no sign that data had been stolen and no customers had lost any money as a result of the theft.

Source: <http://finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=16174>

13. *November 19, Columbus Dispatch (OH)* — **Prison no obstacle for cunning ID thief; man accused of two new schemes.** Anthony F. Forte is accused of accessing personal account information — including Social Security numbers, addresses and phone numbers — while locked up in a state prison in Lancaster, OH. Bristow was able to mine the personal information of unsuspecting motorists by obtaining copies of their traffic tickets. Bristow took blank, pre-signed subpoena forms from a lawsuit he filed in an Indiana municipal court, filled in the case numbers (randomly picked) of 10 traffic tickets of which he wanted copies, and mailed the requests to Fairfield County Municipal Court. Court Clerk Sherry L. Eckman said the simple public-records request was met without question because officials are not allowed to ask why records are needed. Bristow is also accused stealing credit-card numbers and is suspected of using people's personal information to set up a phone account and circumvent the prison's system. In the alleged scam involving hotels in seven states, Bristow posed as a Holiday Inn executive who called and told the desk clerks that Ohio law-enforcement officers wanted help pursuing a prison escapee who had checked in. Then he conned desk clerks into giving up the names of men who had checked in, along with their credit card information.

Source: http://www.columbusdispatch.com/news-story.php?story=dispatc_h/2006/11/19/20061119-A3-01.html

14. *November 19, USA TODAY* — **Banks pull out the big guns to guard online users.** An estimated 87.3 million U.S. adults bank online, reflecting strides made in digital services and a major push by the largest financial institutions to tap into the lucrative Internet market, according to a Gartner survey of 5,000 adults this summer. Still, not everyone is enamored with

storing their personal financial data online, no matter how secure the bank's system is or promises to be. Only one in three Americans believe online banking is as safe as banking in person, according to a survey of 1,150 consumers in April by Cyber Security Industry Alliance and Pineda Consulting. Online banking presents a tantalizing quandary to financial institutions: It is a prime opportunity to snap up potential customers in the lucrative Internet market. But online banking also presents a calculated risk. Financial institutions must balance the ticklish task of selling new services while maintaining a secure system. In their haste to offer fast, convenient services, bank executives are ever mindful of a security breach that could scare away consumers. The consequences are dire: A highly publicized breach constitutes a "reputation of risk" in which a bank could lose up to 20 percent of its online customers within six months.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/computersecurity/2006-11-19-guarding-online-banks_x.htm

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

15. *November 20, Bloomberg* — **Berlin train crash injured rise to 33, police say.** The number of people injured in Berlin Monday morning, November 20, when a commuter train collided with a maintenance train rose to 33, two of whom were seriously hurt, federal police said. The accident occurred close to Suedkreuz station at about 10:35 a.m. local time, said Joerg Kunzendorf, a spokesperson for the federal police. Two passengers were hospitalized in a critical condition after the accident on the city's S-Bahn commuter rail network, Kunzendorf said in a phone interview. The accident follows a September 22 crash between two trains, one a maintenance vehicle, in which 23 people died. The fatal crash occurred when a Transrapid high-speed magnetic-levitation train crashed on a test track in northwestern Germany. Berlin's Suedkreuz station has recently been redeveloped to cope with increased north-south rail traffic through Berlin, including high-speed ICE trains.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=aP23rOBokfAg&refer=germany>

16. *November 20, Reuters* — **Indonesian train derailment kills at least eight.** The last carriage of an Indonesian train plunged into a river on the island of Sumatra on Monday, November 20, killing at least eight people and injuring nearly 40, hospital officials and the Antara news agency said. The accident happened six km (3.7 miles) outside the town of Lubuk Linggau in South Sumatra province after the train passed a small bridge, Antara reported. Hospital officials told Reuters eight people had died and 38 were injured. Indonesia has a relatively poor record of transport safety, with much of the infrastructure in the sprawling Southeast Asian country ageing and overstretched.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK248529.htm>

17. *November 20, Associated Press* — **Delta to recall 700 maintenance workers.** Air carrier Delta Air Lines Inc. said Monday, November 20, it plans to recall about 700 additional maintenance staffers beginning in mid-December. Delta said it has previously recalled about 200 furloughed maintenance staffers over the past few months. Earlier in November, Delta, which filed for bankruptcy in 2005, recalled 1,000 flight attendants. Last week, U.S. Airways made a hostile \$8

billion bid for Delta, which said it isn't interested in a combination and prefers its own plan of reorganization.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/061120/delta_jobs.html?.v=1

18. *November 20, New England News* — **Logan Airport's sixth runway set to open.** More than 30 years after it originally was proposed, a controversial runway at Boston's Logan International Airport is set to open. The mile-long strip, known as Runway 14/32, will be ready for use beginning Thursday, November 23. The runway is expected to cut delays, especially during cold months when prevailing northwest winds effectively can shut Logan down to a single runway each for takeoffs and landings. By court order, use of the runway is restricted to planes taking off and landing over Boston Harbor. Massachusetts Port Authority also can use it only during about a third of the year when winds are from the northwest or southeast. Because the runway is half the size of Logan's three main jet runways, it will serve smaller planes.

Source: <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO34562/>

19. *November 16, Government Technology* — **Los Angeles World Airports launches radio station.** Los Angeles World Airports has launched a new radio station at Ontario International Airport (ONT) — 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles in the center of Southern California — that will provide the traveling public and airport visitors with critical airport security information. The radio station will also provide information on terminal and airline locations, parking, ground transportation, services and amenities, and travel recommendations that will make traveling through ONT easier and more convenient. The Federal Communications Commission allows a low-powered signal for this type of station, which can be heard for several miles on roads and freeways surrounding the airport. "The new airport radio station at 770 on the AM dial, which will operate 24 hours a day, will enable us to communicate immediately with drivers headed to the airport in the event of a security emergency," said Alan Hyde, ONT's police department commander.

Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/102412

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Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *November 20, Memphis Business Journal* — **FedEx Ground to open in Olive Branch.** Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour will attend the inauguration of a new FedEx Ground facility in Olive Branch, MS, Tuesday, November 21. FedEx Ground, the ground shipping division of Memphis, TN-based FedEx Corp., said the new 303,000 square-foot automated terminal will employ 300 and will complement the hub FedEx Ground operates in Memphis, which employs 900. The terminal will process up to 15,000 packages per hour and can dispatch up to 150 delivery vans daily to provide service to an area stretching from Stanton, TN, in the north; Batesville, MS, in the south; Tunica, MS, to the east; and Lamar, MS., to the west. The Olive Branch facility will begin converting to a hub sometime during 2007, increasing capacity and adding jobs.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/061120/1379217.html?.v=1>

21. *November 19, USA TODAY* — **Cargo jets carry some risks along with shipments.** The

Associated Mail and Parcel Centers, which represents over 3,000 small shipping centers, estimates that each year thousands of packages with hazardous materials slip unnoticed onto planes all over the U.S. The leading industry trade group and the government have stepped up efforts to educate the public about shipping flammable goods. The rapid growth in shipments has made it increasingly difficult to police what goes into packages that crisscross the nation, the association says. Its members are small stores that pack items and funnel packages to the large shipping firms. They handle 29 million packages a year. No one can say for sure how many packages, very few of which are inspected, contain hazardous materials. The government does not track cases of hazardous materials found in packages, but all violations — including airline passengers who were caught with hazardous items — totaled more than 14,000 in 2004 and 2005. That is more than three times the number in the previous two years. Evidence gathered in several cargo-jet accidents also suggests that undeclared dangerous cargo is common. While government regulators insist that the system is safe, they are stepping up efforts to monitor shipments.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-11-19-packages-risk_x.htm

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Agriculture Sector

22. *November 18, Reuters* — **Cargill recalls contaminated Canadian cattle feed.** Cargill Ltd. has recalled feed from about 100 Canadian farms because it may contain trace amounts of an ingredient banned to prevent the spread of mad cow disease, the company said on Saturday, November 18. Canadian officials are trying to determine how many and what kind of cattle ate the feed, and whether the feed could contain any infective material. "The younger animals are the ones that we'll be particularly interested in, if there were younger animals on these farms," Brian Evans of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said in an interview. Cargill, the Canadian division of privately held U.S. agribusiness giant Cargill Inc., said it shipped a cattle feed ingredient between October 31 and November 14 in a rail car previously used to ship meat and bone meal made from cattle and other ruminant livestock. The meat and bone meal can be used in hog and poultry feed, but has been banned from cattle feed since 1997 by Canada and the United States because of the risk of spreading bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease.

Source: http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyID=2006-11-19T035835Z_01_N18163030_RTRIDST_0_CA_NADA-MADCOW-CANADA-FEED-COL.XML

23. *November 16, Rapid City Journal (WY)* — **CWD found in deer near Sundance, Wyoming.** Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has spread into another area of Wyoming where it had not been detected previously, a state Game and Fish Department official said. A white-tailed deer harvested in Hunt Area 4 east of Sundance tested positive for the disease. The buck was harvested November 4 in the Moskee area, according to the agency.

Source: <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2006/11/16/news/top/news01j.txt>

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Food Sector

24. *November 21, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA proposes to allow mango imports from India.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend its fruit and vegetable regulations to allow, under certain conditions, the importation of mangoes from India into the continental U.S. To ensure that plant pests do not enter the U.S. through the importation of this commodity, APHIS is proposing to require that the mangoes be treated with specified doses of irradiation at an APHIS-certified facility. Each shipment would also have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the national plant protection organization of India with additional declarations providing specific information regarding the treatment and inspection of the mangoes, as well as the orchards from which they were grown. In addition, the fruit would be subject to inspection at the port of first arrival.
Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/11/mangoind. shtml>
25. *November 18, WTOP Radio (Washington, DC)* — **Birds Eye recalls multiple brands of winter squash.** Birds Eye Foods is recalling 12-ounce packages of its frozen Cooked Winter Squash because some of the products were contaminated with ammonia. The company says it received "fewer than a dozen" consumer complaints about its squash. The presence of ammonia can cause reactions ranging from throat irritation to headache to nausea. The company says the winter squash was packaged under its Birds Eye brand as well as distributed nationally under several store brands. All of the affected packages carry a code starting with 5CF, 5JE, or 6JE. List of brands included in recall:
<http://www.birdseyefoods.com/scripts/press/view.asp?ID=435#brands>
Source: <http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=34&sid=979660>
26. *November 17, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Michigan firm recalls beef jerky due to potential for presence of animal drug.** Mirab USA, Inc. is voluntarily recalling approximately 23,200 pounds of beef jerky products that may contain the animal drug Doramectin, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Friday, November 17. Each package bears the establishment number "Est. 27373" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The problem was discovered through FSIS routine sampling.
Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_032_2006_Release/index.asp

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Water Sector

27. *November 17, Yakima Herald-Republic* — **Tieton, Washington, shuts off water due to pipe breaks.** A dozen pipe breaks over the past several days have forced Tieton, WA, to shut down its aging water system, leaving about 1,200 residents high and dry. Mayor Norma Joiner said the problem began shortly before noon Tuesday, November 14, when three water pipes — including an eight-inch main — broke within 15 minutes of one another. Repairs were made to those three pipes, but there were more breaks in the following days. Rather than risk more damage, Joiner shut off water service and issued an executive order proclaiming an emergency for the city of Tieton. Yakima, WA, Health District officials said the breaks don't appear to

have contaminated the water supply; however, residents are urged to boil any residual flows that trickle through faucets. Tieton Fire Department officials said that if there is an emergency they will have to shuttle water from Cowiche, WA. The city of Selah, WA, has provided a water tanker, which residents can use to fill up containers.

Source: <http://www.yakima-herald.com/page/dis/297905457295897>

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Public Health Sector

28. *November 20, USA TODAY* — **Study shows future outbreaks of Dengue in southern Texas likely.** International travelers can bring home dangerous diseases that pose a risk of spreading in the U.S., scientists warn. Researchers Mary Hayden of the University of Colorado and Emily Zielinski-Gutierrez of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conducted blood tests among residents of Brownsville, TX, which is close to the Mexican border. They found 2.5 percent had signs of recent dengue infection and 38 percent had signs of previous dengue infection. Of the latter, 11 percent had never been outside the U.S., Hayden said, indicating they had been infected locally. The last dengue outbreak in that region was in 1999, she said, but the study shows "future outbreaks are likely in south Texas."

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2006-11-19-mosquito-borne-diseases_x.htm

29. *November 19, Star-Ledger (NJ)* — **Chikungunya arrives on U.S. shores.** Chikungunya, a severe and sometimes deadly infectious disease that has devastated the islands of the Indian Ocean, has arrived in the United States. Colorado, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota and at least a half-dozen other states have reported cases of travelers returning from visits to Asia and East Africa sick with the mosquito-borne virus, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chikungunya can cause fever, nausea, crippling joint pain and even neurological damage. "This virus has exploded," said French scientist Philippe Parola, before presenting his findings last week at the 55th annual American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene conference. International travel has dramatically increased chikungunya's global reach. Although chikungunya was discovered in East Africa in the 1950s, it has caused only 18 major epidemics since that time. But a disease that was little written about in the textbooks and previously thought to be benign appears now to have increased both in frequency and severity, hallmarks of a re-emerging infectious disease.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-10/1163915080194340.xml&coll=1>

30. *November 18, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation* — **Twelfth person dies of C. difficile at Quebec hospital.** Two days after announcing that an outbreak of C. difficile was under control, a hospital in Quebec, Canada, has reported a new death from the stubborn infection. St. Hyacinthe's Honoré Mercier hospital said on Friday, November 17, that a 12th person has died from the bacteria. Thirty-one patients at the hospital have been infected with Clostridium difficile in the last two months. Four patients remain under observation.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2006/11/18/difficile-outbreak.html>

31. *November 15, University of Georgia* — **Researchers use laser, nanotechnology to rapidly**

detect viruses. Using nanotechnology, a team of University of Georgia (UGA) researchers has developed a diagnostic test that can detect viruses as diverse as influenza, HIV and RSV in 60 seconds or less. In addition to saving time, the technique — which is detailed in the November issue of the journal Nano Letters — could save lives by rapidly detecting a naturally occurring disease outbreak or bioterrorism attack. The technique, called surface enhanced Raman spectroscopy, works by measuring the change in frequency of a near-infrared laser as it scatters off viral DNA or RNA. This change in frequency, named the Raman shift for the scientist who discovered it in 1928, is as distinct as a fingerprint. This phenomenon is well known, but Tripp explained that previous attempts to use Raman spectroscopy to diagnose viruses failed because the signal produced is inherently weak. But UGA physics professor Yiping Zhao and UGA chemistry professor Richard Dluhy experimented with several different metals and methods and found a way to significantly amplify the signal.

Abstract: <http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/abstract.cgi/nalefd/2006/6/i11/a bs/nl061666f.html>

Source: http://www.uga.edu/news/artman/publish/061115_Nanotechnology_shtml

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Government Sector

32. *November 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-65: Information Security: Agencies Need to Develop and Implement Adequate Policies for Periodic Testing (Report).** Agencies rely extensively on computerized information systems and electronic data to carry out their missions. To ensure the security of the information and information systems that support critical operations and infrastructure, federal law and policy require agencies to periodically test and evaluate the effectiveness of their information security controls at least annually. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to evaluate the extent to which agencies have adequately designed and effectively implemented policies for testing and evaluating their information security controls. GAO surveyed 24 major federal agencies and analyzed their policies to determine whether the policies address important elements for periodic testing. GAO also examined testing documentation at six agencies to assess the quality and effectiveness of testing on 30 systems. This report contains recommendations to strengthen governmentwide guidance and reporting on agencies' periodic testing of information security controls. OMB said it would consider GAO's recommendations. The Department of Commerce stated that the National Institute of Standards and Technology is reviewing its guidance to assist agencies in strengthening their programs.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0765high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-65>

33. *November 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-83: Managing Sensitive Information: DOJ Needs a More Complete Staffing Strategy for Managing Classified Information and a Set of Internal Controls for Other Sensitive Information (Report).** The September 11 attacks showed that agencies must balance the need to protect and share sensitive information to prevent future attacks. Agencies classify this information or designate it sensitive but unclassified to protect and limit access to it. The National Archives' Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) assesses agencies' classification management programs, and in July 2004 and April 2005 recommended changes to correct problems at the Justice Department (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The Government Accountability

Office (GAO) was asked to examine (1) DOJ's and FBI's progress in implementing the recommendations and (2) the management controls DOJ components have to ensure the proper use of sensitive but unclassified designations. GAO reviewed ISOO's reports and agency documentation on changes implemented and controls in place, and interviewed security program managers at DOJ, its components, and ISOO to examine these issues. GAO recommends that DOJ assess its optimum resource needs, develop a strategy to meet them and use available resources effectively to implement all recommendations, and implement internal controls to ensure proper use of sensitive but unclassified designations. DOJ generally agreed with GAO's recommendations and provided technical comments; GAO included them as appropriate.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0783high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-83>

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Emergency Services Sector

- 34. *November 18, Mercury (PA)* — Pennsylvania county claims no calls lost after activating emergency 911 system.** An interruption in a phone carrier line prompted Montgomery County, PA, to activate its emergency disaster plan for the 911 system on Friday, November 17, according to county public safety officials. County officials said they've received no reports of residents being hampered in getting through to 911 during the late-morning incident. Residents who did call 911 during the incident likely noticed nothing out of the ordinary, officials said. According to Thomas Sullivan, the county's public safety director, staff at the 911 Emergency Dispatch Call Center in Lower Providence began noticing problems occurring with incoming calls at 9:47 a.m. EST Friday. A short time later, telephone company officials notified county technicians that all trunk lines to the 911 Center were down. "Our backup center was staffed and operational within 18 minutes," Sullivan added. Officials also broadcast a text message to local media outlets, by way of an emergency alert system, advising broadcast stations to broadcast a backup ten-digit emergency number to be used in the event residents had difficulty getting through on 911.

Source: http://www.pottstownmercury.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=17484170&BRD=1674&PAG=461&dept_id=18041&rft=6

- 35. *November 16, WLS-TV (IL)* — Chicago police to use robot to fight crime.** In Illinois, Chicago police unveiled a new weapon to fight crime in the city on Thursday, November 16. Chicago police bomb squad members have used robotic devices since late last century, but what they rolled out Thursday morning takes the technology to a new level. According to City Hall, they have the most advanced version of an android police officer on duty in any big city in America. By January, Chicago will have four robots costing \$135,000 each. Two will be for citywide police use, one exclusively for O'Hare International Airport, and another for the fire department's Hazmat unit. The most frequent police use will be to investigate — including X-ray suspected bombs.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=4769716>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

36. *November 20, IDG News Service* — **Check Point adds encryption with Pointsec buy.** Check Point Software Technologies plans to acquire Pointsec Mobile Technologies in an effort to extend its security offering to laptops and other remote access devices. Check Point made the \$586 million offer for Protect Data, the owner of Pointsec, on Monday, November 20. With the Pointsec acquisition, Check Point hopes to extend its security offering to include corporate data, the company said.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/20/HNcheckpointpoints_ecbuy_1.html
37. *November 20, IDG News Service* — **U.S. government clears Alcatel–Lucent merger.** President George Bush has accepted a recommendation that he not suspend or prohibit the planned merger of Alcatel and Lucent Technologies on security grounds after an agency that oversees foreign investment said the deal should be allowed, apparently clearing it to go forward. The companies announced in April they would merge, creating a giant communications equipment vendor that would be based in Paris. The deal faced scrutiny on both sides of the Atlantic, partly because both companies have sensitive government contracts related to national security. Approval by the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment, an inter-agency panel led by the Secretary of the Treasury, was to be the last hurdle to the deal, according to the companies.
Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/06/11/20/HNalcatellucentclears_1.html
38. *November 20, Agence France–Presse* — **European cities launch IT and telecoms research network.** About 20 European cities have launched a network for information sharing, research and testing in the fields of mobile and information technology. The "Living Labs Europe" project enables companies, research institutes and investors to share information on technical and commercial testing of new technologies and mobile services. The European Union, which lags behind the United States and Japan in terms of funding for research and development, aims to become the world's most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy by 2010.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061120/tc_afp/eutelecomitresearchranddsector
39. *November 20, PC Adviser (UK)* — **Second Life worm causes unrest.** Online gamers were locked out of Second Life Sunday, November 19, after a self-replicating worm planted spinning golden rings throughout the virtual world. The rings caused game servers to slow down, and forced Second Life's creator — Linden Lab — to prevent people from logging on. The game was reopened within 25 minutes. Over 1.5 million people have registered to use Second Life, and Linden Lab claims the population is growing by 38 percent every month.
Source: <http://www.pcadvisor.co.uk/news/index.cfm?newsid=7652>
40. *November 20, VNUNet* — **Image-based spam defeating filters.** Overall spam levels have soared by more than 67 percent, and image-based spam by more than 500 percent, since August, according to new figures from security vendor Barracuda Networks. The company said that it has seen a marked increase in simple-text messages, particularly "penny stock" scams, because these forms of spam are particularly well suited for text-only e-mail. As the call is simply to transact a stock, these e-mails need not reveal their intent through embedded URLs or HTML tags. Barracuda also reported a considerable climb in the volume of image-based

spam, a trend that began more than six months ago. Because developing stock spam that can pass through filters often requires the spammer to degrade the readability of the messages, stock spam also makes up a significant percentage of image spam.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2168984/image-spam-rise>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 4662 (eDonkey2000), 6881 (bittorrent), 13886 (---), 1027 (icq), 4672 (eMule), 25530 (---), 1028 (---), 25 (smtp), 18284 (---) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

41. *November 17, CBS News* — **Northwest Indiana woman finds bomb in driveway.** A

Northwest Indiana woman found a pipe bomb in her driveway Friday morning, November 17, but police were able to remove the bomb without detonating it. The woman, Donna J. Aubrey, of Morgan Township in Porter County, found the pipe bomb lying on the driveway in front of her garage, police said. Police came to the house and determined it was an explosive device. They secured the area and notified the bomb team, which arrived several minutes later, police said. A robotic unit hauled the bomb to a grassy area and rendered it safe, police said. The device was made of PVC pipe and measured about four inches in diameter and 10 inches in length. Inside, it had black explosive powder and a fuse, police said. The bomb did not detonate, and police were examining it.

Source: http://cbs2chicago.com/topstories/local_story_321143053.html

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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